DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Hon. Minister has given a very elaborate answer regarding safety measures about which I wanted to ask But. .

MR CHAIRMAN: If your question has already been answered, then Mr. Gurupadaswamy to put his question.

DR (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA. I wanted to know if it has added to the cost escalation. Sir, what about my question?

MR CHAIRMAN: He has already elaborately answered.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: I said that he has elaborately answered about the safety measures. But I would like to know whether it is also responsible for the cost escalation.

SHRI NATWAR SINGH: You are sitting next to him You can ask him. (*Interruptions*)

SRHI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, may I ask...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Vacancies of High Court Judges

*282. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies of judges exist at present in the various High Courts; and

(b) if so, what is the number of seats to be filled up from amongst the persons belonging to minority and the backward classes, separately and High Court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 16.11.1987, there were 50 vacancies against the sanctioned strength of 442 Judges and Additional Judges in various High Courts of the country.

(b) There is no allocation of posts to be filled up from amongst persons belonging to minorities and backward classes as the appointments are made in terms of Article 217 of the Constitution of India.

Benefits to the Central Government Employees appointed on 89 Days' Employment Basis

*285. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) the status of the employees in various Government departments who are appointed on 89 days' employment basis and again appointed for 89 days after giving them a break for one day;

(b) whether such employees are not given any benefit of increment in salary, leave benefits, medical facilities, leave travel concession, bonus etc. when such employees remain in Government service in this position for years together; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) All appointments made without following the prescribed recruitment procedures, including those for short periods of 89 days with a break, are *ad hoc* in nature.

(b) and (c) As their service is not continuous, such employees are not entitled to annual increments and leave travel concession. They will

not be eligible to get bonus if their emoluments are more than the ceiling fixed or they do not fulfil the other condition or having 6 months' continuous service as on the last day of the financial year. They are, however, granted earned leave at the rate of 2½ days for every completed month of service and are normally eligible for medical facilities.

Regional Remote Sensing Service Centres

*286. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Regional Remote Sensing Service Centres have been set up;

(b) what is the present status of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-1A; and

(c) what are the areas/purposes for which remote sensing is being undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHONOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The places where Regional Remote Sensing Service Centres are being set up are Bangalore, Dehradun, Nagpur, Jodhpur and Kharagpur Of these, the Bangalore and Dehradun Centres have already become operational. The other three Centres are expected to become operational in the next six months.

(b) IRS-1A is undergoing final integrated and environmental ground checkout tests at ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore prior to transportation, early next year, to USSR. It is planned to be launched in the first quarter of 1988.

(c) Remote sensing data have application in a number of resources management areas such as agriculture, water resources, geology, forestry, urban planning etc. Examples of some salient applications being done or attempted in different parts of the country are:—

—Preparation of ground water potential maps;

—mapping of wastelands and their categorisation;

—regional geological mapping;

—crop acreages for wheat and rice in some States,

—land use/land cover mapping;

—mapping flood inundated areas;

—study of urban sprawls;

—prioritisation of watersheds for soil conservation measures;

—mapping of coastal lands;

—forest mapping; and

—techniques are being developed for

(1) water quality monitoring,

(2) marine fish location,

(3) crop yield modelling,

(4) crop stress detection,

(5) monitoring of parameters like surface water index and vegetation index with a view to develop drought monitoring system, and

(6) geological mapping with a view to aid mineral targetting.

Deterioration in financial flows to developing countries

*287. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commonwealth Summit recently held at Vancouver